

after the armistice to escort prisoners of war back to Germany.

Mr. Buckles now stands as the last representation of the Americans that served in the Great War. Though now distanced by the following economic depression, subsequent World War and more recent conflicts, World War I still remains a critical part of our history, symbolizing the emergence of our country as a superpower and demonstrating the willingness and selflessness of those who serve in our military. These men, 90 years later, still deserve the recognition and admiration of a grateful nation.

In honor of Frank Buckles and the millions of veterans he stands for, I am introducing a resolution authorizing Mr. Buckles to lie in honor in the rotunda of the Capitol upon his passing so that citizens may pay tribute to the last member of this faithful group of Americans. After a period of repose, Mr. Buckles will receive final burial at the Arlington National Cemetery, a privilege offered earlier this year. I introduce this resolution now, so that Mr. Buckles will be aware of the respect we wish to pay to him and his fellow veterans.

We should not allow this generation to fade from our society without showing our appreciation of their service. As Ranking Member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, and on behalf of Senator BYRD, I ask my colleagues to join us in extending this honor to Mr. Buckles.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 11, 2008, at 3 p.m., in room 253 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 11, 2008, at 9:30 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, to conduct a hearing on Judicial nominations on Wednesday, June 11, 2008, at 2 p.m., in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that for the next 30 minutes, an energy intern from my office, Carolyn Jones, be granted the privilege of the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MEASURES INDEFINITELY POSTPONED EN BLOC

Ms. STABENOW. I ask unanimous consent that the following calendar items be indefinitely postponed en bloc: Calendar Nos. 35, 37, 42, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 143, 224, 227, 228, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 245, 248, 250, 251, 252, 254, 255, 256, 267, 285, 354, 360, 361, 362, 364, 367, 372, 373, 375, 377, 378, 379, 385, 424, 425, 436, 437, 546, 572, 639, 640, 643, 655, 658, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, and 724.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 3118

Ms. STABENOW. I understand that S. 3118, introduced earlier today by Senator GRASSLEY, is at the desk. I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3118) to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to preserve beneficiary access to care by preventing a reduction in the Medicare physician fee schedule, to improve the quality of care by advancing value based purchasing, electronic health records, and electronic prescribing, and to maintain and improve access to care in rural areas, and for other purposes.

Ms. STABENOW. I ask for a second reading and object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bill will receive its second reading on the next legislative day.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, JUNE 12, 2008

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 9:30 a.m. tomorrow, Thursday, June 12; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that the Senate resume the motion to proceed to S. 3101, the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act, as under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, also under the previous order, the clo-

ture vote on the motion to proceed to the Medicare bill will occur at approximately 3 p.m. tomorrow afternoon.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Ms. STABENOW. I ask unanimous consent that following the remarks of Senator COBURN and Senator INHOFE, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, it stand adjourned under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Oklahoma is recognized.

MEDICARE IMPROVEMENTS FOR PATIENTS AND PROVIDERS ACT

Mr. COBURN. We heard some reasons we should support the Baucus doctor fix. I happen to have been practicing in 2004 when the Senate did exactly what they are doing right now. This bill is going to guarantee the doctor fix is not done by July 1. That is what is going to happen with this bill.

Let me tell you, we are eventually going to fix the problem for the doctors for 18 months. There is no question. Everybody agrees to that. But what we are doing is, we are making sure we are going to add hundreds of thousands if not millions of dollars of cost in every State for every private physician that is practicing.

And the reason is because the bill is not going to get changed by July 1, and they are going to be under the 10.9-percent cut. Then they are going to come back, whenever we finally get it done. They are going to have to refile all of that, and Medicare is going to have to repay all of this.

So this exercise in political gamesmanship, of working only with one side of the aisle, not working with Senator GRASSLEY, to truly get this done in a way that the President will not veto it and accomplish the purposes for which we all say we want, to eliminate the 10.9-percent cut for physicians, that is something we are going to lose grasp of, and we are going to create a hardship on every physician in this country because we are playing a political game with this rather than fixing the problem.

That brings me to my next point. Why is it every 18 months the physicians in this country have to come and beg Congress not to cut their fees when we are not cutting the fees for the rest of the providers throughout the Medicare Program?

What we have decided is that doctors make too much money. We have decided that when they work 80 hours a week, one and a half to two times what everybody else works in this country, they spend their time away from their families making great sacrifices, that we are going to fund increases in the care for our elderly and seniors in this country on the backs of physicians.

Now, I will not dispute the fact that there are some disparities in physician